

Message Text

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15

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SS-15 NSC-10 RSR-01 /075 W

----- 013928

R 060735Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1452

INFO CINCPAC FOR POLAD

CINCPACREP CANBERRA

NAVELEXSYSCOM FOR PME-119

COMMANDANT COAST GUARD WASHDC

OSD/PA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 4362

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, OTRA, AS, US

SUBJ: PRESS VISIT TO OMEGA STATION IN HAWAII

REF: CINCPAC 042255Z AUG 73 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY BELIEVES INVITATION TO AUSTRALIAN JOURNALIST LAURIE OAKES SUGGESTED IN REFTEL SHOULD BE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE OTHER JOURNALISTS TRAVELLING WITH WHITLAM PARTY. THESE INCLUDE CORRESPONDENTS FOR SEVEN MAJOR AUSTRALIAN MEDIA, PLUS TV CHANNEL 7. TV CHANNEL 7 TEAM, AS WELL AS ABC REPS, MAY WISH TO GIVE CAMERA COVERAGE TO ANY VISIT TO OMEGA STATION AS WELL AS HOLD INTERVIEW WITH OFFICIALS IN CHARGE FOR BROADCASTING ON AUSTRALIAN TV. INFORMATION ON OMEGA STATION HAWAII OF A FACTUAL NATURE, WHETHER IN NEWS ARTICLES OR TV COVERAGE OR BOTH, COULD BE VERY HELPFUL IN CURRENT SITUATION IN AUSTRALIA WITH REGARD TO OMEGA.

2. OUR REASON FOR SUGGESTING ALL MEDIA REPS WITH WHITLAM PARTY BE INCLUDED IN OMEGA BRIEFING IS THAT INFORMATION ON OMEGA, SINCE IT IS OPEN AND UNCLASSIFIED, SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE ON EQUAL BASIS TO ALL AUSTRALIAN JOURNALISTS. WE BELIEVE THERE SHOULD BE NO
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IMPLICATION THAT OAKES HAS "INSIDE TRACK" WITH MINISTER

JONES OR ANYONE ELSE WITH REGARD TO OMEGA.

3. WHILE WE DO NOT KNOW REASONS, IF ANY, FOR JONES' SUGGESTION THAT OAKES MIGHT HAVE "EXCLUSIVE" INTERVIEW WITH COMMANDER ASCHE, IT WOULD SEEM TO BE NO MORE THAN DOING A FAVOR FOR FRIENDLY JOURNALIST. WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT OAKES' REPORT ON VISIT TO OMEGA STATION WOULD BE ANY MORE FAVORABLE THAN THOSE FILED BY OTHER JOURNALISTS IN WHITLAM PARTY.

4. REQUEST RESPONSE TO MINISTER JONES'S LETTER BE SENT THROUGH EMBASSY CANBERRA.
HARROP

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NNN

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